

Senator Nelson, Lamb, Wehrbein, and Beutler. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker and members. I am not sure what the bill number is I introduced that outlawed all private landfills. I have not introduced anything like that. That statement is completely inaccurate. If you find that bill, bring it to me and show it to me. We have got to refocus on what we are doing. LB 67 is a good effort. I thought we needed to make some changes. There is no hidden agenda on my part. I am trying to do what is right. It takes a long time to do what is right because we have ignored the problem for years. We can't just snap our fingers and hope it goes away. Senator Nelson has moved just to get rid of the language that we adopted yesterday that is completely contrary to Senator Schmit's purposes. We want to address it in a timely fashion but we have to tell them what to do. There are no regs to tell them what to do right now. I was at a meeting Saturday with 25 or 30 people that said we want to close these but we don't know how to close them. Many of them will close much before the date. These people are ready to do it, folks. A lot of them have been studying it, but some of them haven't. If you want to just lay this date on them with no flexibility, no ability to study, you are going to force them to the private landfills, and that is fine. I foresee a mixture of public and private. Purely private opens us wide open to importation. If you are comfortable with that, fine. I think we have to have a handle on that and a mix of public and private will give us that handle. If you make them decide too soon before they know how they can finance, how they can site, how they should manage, you are going to force them into the hands of the private owners, and they are there now willing and ready to accept all the trash in the state, and that is fine. That might be the way to go but we can't force that decision on our communities and our people. They have to have the time. Striking yesterday's amendment, as Senator Nelson aims to do, will get us back to 67, the discussion on the committee amendments, whether they are good or bad. I have an amendment to the committee amendments that will include a date on the plan for closure or licensure, sites specific. Those folks need to go out and study their own problem. We, as a state, cannot afford to baby-sit them all the way through this process. They have to take on some responsibilities to go out and identify their problems. Under Senator Lamb's amendment, the state has to go out and identify their problems, study all these landfills, put up monitoring wells to tell if they are polluting or not. That is very costly